Indian Participation in Major Power Plants in Nepal

4057. SHRI SANIPALLI GANGADHARA: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the major hydel projects, Karnali project and Savda river project are proposed to be set up in Nepal with Indian Participation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the contemplated Indian share therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (c). Karnali (Chisapani) Dam Project with a proposed installed capacity of 10,800 MW on Mahakali river in Nepal and Pancheshwar Project with a proposed installed capacity of 3000 MW on river Sharda are under discussion with His Majesty's Government of Nepal, for mutual benefit of the two countries. On Karnali Project, HMG, Nepal had commissioned an international consortia of firms to prepare a Feasibility Report. The Feasibility Report is now being firmed up by HMG, Nepal in consultation with Indian Engineers. The Pancheshwar Project on river Sharda is being investigated for preparation of a detailed Project Report.

India would buy surplus power from Karnali Project in Nepal provided it is available at an economical rate. On Pancheshwar Project, India and Nepal have agreed to locate two power houses of equal capacity on either side of the river thereby implying equal sharing of power from the Project.

Pending Applications for Telephone Connections in Maharashtra

4058. SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of pending applications for telephone connections in the district Parbhani and Nanded in Maharashtra;

(b) the action being taken to expedite the release of telephone connections;

(c) the details of telephone connections released out of turn in these districts during the last two years; and

(d) the details of temporary telephone connections sanctioned during the said period?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) The number of pending applications for telephone connections in the two districts as on 29.2.92 are as under:

Nanded District	:	2396
Parbhani Distt.	:	1205

(b) The plan proposals envisage automatissation of manual exchanges by adequate capacity electeronic exchanges by March, 1994. This will ensure release of new connections wherever there is unfulfilled demand. At other places in these districts, expansion programmes have been taken up in line with another 8th Plan objective to provide telephone connections in rural & tribal areas practically on demand by the end of 8th Plan. For the towns of Parbhani and Nanded also, electronic exchanges have been planned.

(c) Out of turn telephones released in

last two years, viz., 1990-91 and 1991-92 are as under:

	Sanctioned	*Provided*
Nanded District :	45	40
Parbhani Distt. :	43	43

(d) Temporary telephones sanctioned in these districts during last two years viz. 90-91 and 1991-92 are as under:-

Nanded District	:	33
Parbhani Distt.	:	16

Flight from Visakhapatnam to Delhi

4059. DR. VISWANATHAM KANITHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to link Visakhapatnam with Delhi;

(b) if so, whether survey regarding the present traffic position especially the percentage of occupy of seats month-wise has been conducted; and

(c) if not, whether there is any proposal to conduct a survey in this regard now?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

Closing of Post Offices in Andhra Pradesh

4060. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria fixed for continuation of existing ED Branch Post Office, Branch Post Office, ED Sub Post Office, Sub Post Offices in rural areas;

(b) whether the Government propose to close some Post Offices in Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the details and reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) A statement in this regard is attached.

(b) There is no proposal to close any post office in Krishna district, Andhra Pradesh. However, whenever some Post Offices are not justified for retention as per the norms, these are considered for relocation as per extant orders.

(c) In view of (b) above, the question does not arise.

STATEMENT

Criterion for continuance of extra-departmental branch post offices, ED sub post offices and sub post offices in rural areas:

Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices:

In normal areas, there should be a minimum income of 33 1/3% of income to cost of the offices and in hilly/tribal/desert and inaccessible areas, the minimum income should be 15% of the cost.

Extra-Departmental Sub Post Offices:

It should have a minimum work [illegible] hours.